GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2033
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU;KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) threatened to launch agitation if the Centre fails tdban transgenic hvbrid varieties, including BT Cotton in the country in view of their harmful effects on environment and people;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the views of Government on use of genetically modified seeds; and

(d) the action taken by Government to compensate farmers who incurred losses by opting Bt Cotton?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND F0RESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) & b) No Sir; the Ministry has not received any information on the threatened agitation by the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) to ban transgenic hvbrid including Bt. Cotton in the country.

(c) The Government is following a policy of case by case approval of transgenic crops. Bt cotton is the only transgenic crop approved for commercial cultivation in India. The Bt gene has been specifically introduced to control bollworm infestation in cotton crop. The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) accorded conditional approval for commercial cultivation of three Bt Cotton varieties namely MECH-12, MECH-162 and MECH-184 of M/s Mahyco Hybrid Seed Company Ltd in April, 2002 for a period of thre years after detailed evaluation on the efficacy and biosafety of the product.

(d) The Government has not received any claims for compensation by farmers on account of losses due to Bt. Cotton.